

## TRIMMING THE ESTIMATES.

A FEW WHITTLINGS REMOVED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL DEMANDS.

The Comptroller Likely to Get All he Asked for—Not So the Corporation Counsel—Mr. Astor Appears as the Great Objector.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment began yesterday to determine the amounts to be placed in the city budget for 1884. No amount can be passed except by the concurrent vote of all the members. A communication was received from the Police Department asking an appropriation to test in one precinct a system of telephone communication similar to that used in Chicago. Mr. S. H. Proctor made a protest against any appropriation for the Bureau of Engineering, and said that the \$8,000 asked for that purpose would be wasted on favorite officials, who would do nothing for the money. He asked the Board to investigate further before making any appropriation.

Judge McGown of the Ninth District Civil Court addressed the Board upon the subject of supplies needed in his court, which he said he had vainly tried to obtain from the Commissioner of Public Works. Notwithstanding the appropriation of \$125,789 last year for supplies to the courts, he was told two months after the appropriation that the money had all been spent. He asked the Board to appropriate money for the specific purpose of supplying the courts, so that they might be better equipped to meet the impossibility of fitting the proper utensils for cleaning his court rooms, the absence of the requisite law books, and said he did not wish to be compelled to depend upon the Commissioner of Public Works and beg for what the court was entitled to. He could not say what was done with the appropriation of \$8,000 asked for him. He said no court was supplied from any library and yet without the books necessary to carry on the business of the court.

The Board accepted the Commissioner's estimates, and began with the item of \$26,000 asked for cleaning the markets. Mr. Astor suggested that part of the money be used to meet the expense of the facility with which the new markets can be cleaned. The Board finally concluded to pass the item as requested by the Comptroller, and to add \$10,000 for contingencies of the Comptroller's office. Comptroller Grant said that this was the only safety valve in his department.

The item of \$160,000 for salaries of officers and clerks was next considered. Mr. Astor said it was \$30,000 for this part of his department. While he was willing to pay fair salaries to good men, he wanted to be sure that the amount asked for was reasonable.

Comptroller Grant called upon Deputy Storrs to state the amount of his salary. Mr. Storrs said that the amount was reasonable, and that the work of the office had greatly increased.

Mr. Astor—Has that increased even of work or the general work of the office? We are getting up tax sales that have been deferred. The Assessment Commissioners are sitting, and they have given us considerable work.

The Board concluded to give the Comptroller the sum asked for, \$160,000, plus \$30,000 for taxes on real estate, \$160,000 for the Comptroller of Taxes, and \$25,000 for salary of the City Chamberlain, as fixed by law.

The estimates for the Mayor's office, \$30,000, and \$10,000 for the Bureau of Permits, were passed without objection.

For the Board of Aldermen the amounts passed were \$160,000 for salaries of officers and clerks, \$30,000 for the Seven Regimentary in lieu of rent, \$10,000 for the City Engineer, \$10,000 for the Auditor, \$10,000 for the City Clerk, and \$10,000 for the City Chamberlain.

The Board cut down the item to \$1,000, and the contingencies of the clerks of the Common Council Naval Firemen to \$200.

The following items were passed:

State taxes, \$1,400,000; for schools, \$1,400,000 for general purposes, \$1,300,000 for free cans and soap, \$100,000 for fire departments, \$100,000 for police, and drill rooms, exclusive of rent, \$20,000. For judgements against the city, \$25,000. For expenses of the Auditor, \$10,000. For the Auditor of Taxes, \$10,000. For the Seven Regimentary in lieu of rent, \$10,000. For the City Engineer, \$10,000. For the Auditor, \$10,000. For the City Clerk, \$10,000. For the City Chamberlain, as fixed by law.

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